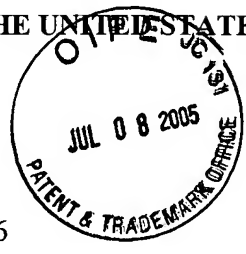


AFZW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:
Berry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/691,256

Filed: October 22, 2003

For: Vertebral Body Replacement Implant

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Group Art Unit: 3738

Confirmation No.: 5450

Examiner: Stewart, Alvin J.

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
MAILED MAY 5, 2005**

Sir:

I. Introductory Comments

The present paper is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 5, 2005.

Listing of the Pending Claims, for the Examiner's convenience, begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.